

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

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DRAFTED BY EUR/SOV:WHEDGAR:PJP/CLK
APPROVED BY D-THE ACTING SECRETARY
EUR:WHLUERS (DRAFT)
S/MS:CKAMMAN (DRAFT)
EUR/SOV:SMCCALL

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R 201532Z JUL 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 183496

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BGEN, CASC, UR, EEWT

SUBJECT: CRAWFORD ARREST: INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER MEETING
WITH ACTING SECRETARY

REF: STATE 172810

1. SUMMARY. IN A CALL ON THE ACTING SECRETARY I-H CHAIR-
MAN MCCORMICK EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER PRESS CRITICISM THAT
THE COMPANY HAD CONDUCTED BUSINESS AS USUAL WHILE CHARGES
ARE STILL PENDING AGAINST CRAWFORD. HE ALSO EXPRESSED THE
CONCERN THAT SOME OF THIS CRITICISM ORIGINATED IN EMBASSY
MOSCOW. MR. CHRISTOPHER TOLD HIM THAT WE DID NOT BELIEVE
THAT THE EMBASSY HAD BEEN THE SOURCE. MCCORMICK SAID THE
COMPANY IS NOW HOLDING UP ON ALL NEW BUSINESS. HE HAS ALSO
WRITTEN AGAIN TO DOBRYNIN, AND PLANS TO GENERATE BROADER
SUPPORT FOR CRAWFORD FROM THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY.

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MCCORMICK RAISED THE QUESTION OF TRADING CRAWFORD FOR
THE WOODBRIDGE TWO. MR. CHRISTOPHER SAID THE COMPANY
SHOULD NOT COUNT ON THIS POSSIBILITY. WE DON'T KNOW
WHETHER ANY TRADES WILL BE FEASIBLE AND, IN ANY EVENT,
WOULD HAVE SERIOUS RESERVATIONS ABOUT INCLUDING AN
INNOCENT BUSINESSMAN IN AN EXCHANGE FOR TWO ESPIONAGE
AGENTS. END SUMMARY.

2. INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER CHAIRMAN BROOKS MCCORMICK CALLED ON THE ACTING SECRETARY JULY 17 TO DISCUSS THE CRAWFORD CASE. HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY HIS GENERAL COUNSEL, WILLIAM CRAWFORD.

3. MCCORMICK BEGAN BY MAKING THREE POINTS:

--THE COMPANY'S ONLY CONCERN IS TO GET CRAWFORD RELEASED.

--THE COMPANY HAS CHANGED ITS APPROACH AS A RESULT OF MARSHALL SHULMAN'S TALKS WITH I-H REPRESENTATIVES ON JULY 8 (REFTEL). BEFORE THEN, I-H HAD BEEN MAINTAINING NORMAL CONTACTS WITH SOVIET TRADE OFFICIALS IN THE HOPE THEY WOULD BE HELPFUL IN GETTING CRAWFORD RELEASED. NOW I-H IS NO LONGER CONDUCTING BUSINESS AS USUAL. THEY HAVE STOPPED ALL NEGOTIATIONS ON NEW CONTRACTS (ALTHOUGH THEY ARE STILL SHIPPING SPARE PARTS AND EQUIPMENT UNDER EXISTING ONES). MCCORMICK HAS ALSO WRITTEN ANOTHER LETTER TO AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN STATING THAT I-H IS CONVINCED CRAWFORD IS "COMPLETELY AND TOTALLY INNOCENT" AND SAYING: "WE BELIEVE HIS ARREST WAS A MISTAKE". THE LETTER LINKS THE COMPANY'S ABILITY TO TRADE WITH THE USSR TO "A MUTUAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE PROTECTION AND WELL BEING OF THE PEOPLE WHO REPRESENT US". (TEXT BY SEPTTEL.) MCCORMICK PLANNED TO DELIVER LETTER PERSONALLY TO SOVIET MINISTER-
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COUNSELOR VASEV (IN DOBRYNIN'S ABSENCE) AFTER MCCORMICK'S MEETING WITH MR. CHRISTOPHER.

--THE COMPANY IS PARTICULARLY TROUBLED BY ARTICLES CRITICIZING THE WAY IT HAS HANDLED THE CRAWFORD CASE, WHICH HAVE APPEARED IN NEWSWEEK AND THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE. COMPANY BELIEVES THESE ARTICLES MAY HAVE ORIGINATED IN EMBASSY MOSCOW. THE NEWSWEEK ARTICLE, FOR EXAMPLE, CONTAINS INFORMATION PRESUMABLY KNOWN ONLY TO I-H AND THE EMBASSY CONCERNING CHANGES IN THE STATEMENT THAT CRAWFORD MADE AFTER HIS RELEASE. FURTHERMORE, THE ARTICLES CONTAIN A NUMBER OF "GLARING INACCURACIES".

4. MR. CHRISTOPHER SAID HE WAS PLEASED BY THE NEW LETTER TO DOBRYNIN AND AGREED THAT THE COMPANY IS NOW FOLLOWING THE RIGHT LINE WITH THE SOVIETS. HE SAID HE WAS NOT ABLE TO CONFIRM WHAT MCCORMICK HAD SAID ABOUT THE EMBASSY, THAT THE OFFICERS INVOLVED HAVE REPORTED THAT THEY SAID NOTHING OFF THE RECORD AND THAT THERE ARE MANY OTHER POSSIBLE SOURCES IN MOSCOW. HE PROPOSED THAT THIS MATTER BE PUT BEHIND US.

5. MCCORMICK GAVE MR. CHRISTOPHER A LETTER FROM HIM TO SECRETARY VANCE (TEXT SEPTTEL). HE SAID HE PLANS TO

SEND A FOLLOW-UP TO HIS JULY 6 LETTER TO FIRMS WITH ACCREDITED OFFICES IN MOSCOW. HE ALSO PLANS TO WRITE DIRECTLY TO PATOLICHEV. MR. CHRISTOPHER SAID THESE STEPS WOULD BE HELPFUL. HE SUGGESTED THAT I-H ALSO TRY TO GET OTHER BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED, E.G. THE INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE. OTHER COMPANY HEADS MIGHT WANT TO COMMUNICATE DIRECTLY WITH TOP SOVIET OFFICIALS IN MOSCOW, AS WELL AS WRITING TO DOBRYNIN. MR. CHRISTOPHER OFFERED TO FOLLOW UP WITH BUSINESS LEADERS IN ANY WAY THAT WOULD BE HELPFUL.

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6. MCCORMICK SAID THAT HE PLANNED TO TELL VASEV THAT THE COMPANY WAS PREPARED TO MOVE CRAWFORD AT A MOMENT'S NOTICE TO ANOTHER HARVESTER JOB OUTSIDE USSR IF THAT WOULD HELP RESOLVE THE CASE. HE SAID THAT THE COMPANY HAD HOPED CRAWFORD MIGHT BE TRADED FOR THE TWO SOVIET UN EMPLOYEES, BUT HE NOTICED THAT SOVIET CITIZENS WERE NOW CANDIDATES FOR SUCH A TRADE (HIS LETTER TO THE SECRETARY ALLUDES TO THIS POINT).

7. MR. CHRISTOPHER ADVISED I-H NOT TO COUNT ON THE POSSIBILITY OF AN EXCHANGE. FIRST OF ALL, IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER ANY EXCHANGES WILL BE FEASIBLE. SECONDLY, EXCHANGING AN INNOCENT BUSINESSMAN FOR TWO ESPIONAGE AGENTS WOULD BE AN UNATTRACTIVE TRADE. AT THIS TIME, MOBILIZING SUPPORT FROM THE AMERICAN BUSINESS COMMUNITY IS THE BEST CARD WE HAVE TO PLAY. MR. CHRISTOPHER REVIEWED WHAT THE USG HAS DONE ON CRAWFORD'S BEHALF. IT IS IMPORTANT NOW FOR I-H AND THE GOVERNMENT TO WORK CLOSELY TOGETHER. HE PERSONALLY ATTACHED VERY HIGH IMPORTANCE TO THE CASE, AND SAID MCCORMICK SHOULD NOT HESITATE TO CALL ON HIM FOR ASSISTANCE AT ANY TIME. CHRISTOPHER

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